



DATE: August 9, 2021

AGENDA ITEM #5

**TO:** Environmental Commission  
**FROM:** Emiko Ancheta, Staff Liaison  
**SUBJECT:** Environmental Commission Work Plan

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and take action, as appropriate, on the 2021/22 Environmental Commission Work Plan

---

**BACKGROUND**

The Environmental Commission met in a Joint Meeting with the City Council on May 4, 2021 to review the Commission's 2020/21 Accomplishments and Draft 2021/22 Target areas and discussed issues and projects for the upcoming year. Based on this discussion, the targets were finalized, and the 2021/22 Work Plan was developed. The Targets and Work Plan are intended to focus the Commission's agenda items and will serve as a roadmap for projects and actions, as appropriate, during the 2021/22 year.

**DISCUSSION**

Environmental Commission Targets and resulting Work Plan for 2021/22 are:

1. Climate Action Plan
2. Green/Sustainability Activities
3. Solid Waste Diversion
4. Community Outreach and Education

The Commission will review the targets, projects, and status updates at each of its monthly meetings and act appropriately.

**ATTACHMENT:**

- A. 2021/22 Targets and Work Plan
- B. Valley Water Drought Response Plan Presentation

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## 2021/22 Targets &amp; Work Plan

August 9, 2021

Targets	Projects	Assignments	Target Date	City Priority related to	Status
Climate Action Plan	Building Electrification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subcommittee -Don Weiden, Laura Tekler and Lei Yuan</li> </ul>	Fall 2022	CAAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reach Codes approved at the November 10, 2020 Council meeting</li> <li>On January 25, 2021, the CEC approved the Reach Code ordinances</li> <li>Reach Codes currently implemented and in effect</li> <li>Work to implement CAP building electrification actions</li> <li>Council adoption of Reach Code ordinance update (2.0) targeted for Fall 2022</li> </ul>
	Update of City's CAP (Climate Action and Adaptation Plan-CAAP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subcommittee- Don Weiden, Bruno Delagneau, Raashina Humayun to work with staff and consultant</li> </ul>	Dec. 2021	CAAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EC to work with staff and consultant to update the CAP - Climate Action and Adaptation Plan</li> <li>Staff and CAAP subcommittee update the EC at regular commission meetings</li> <li>Council CAAP adoption targeted for December 2021</li> <li>CAAP survey #1 completed</li> <li>CAAP Community Workshop held June 28, 2021</li> <li>CAAP 2<sup>nd</sup> survey open</li> </ul>
	Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EC cooperative with Complete Streets Commission</li> </ul>	Ongoing	CAAP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work to implement CAAP transportation actions</li> <li>Advance walking, biking, and shared transit</li> </ul>

<p><b>Green/Sustainability Activities</b></p>	<p>Green Infrastructure and Other Sustainability Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist staff in implementation of the Green/Sustainability Actions</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Storm Water Regional Discharge Permit and other Environmental Related Plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy update finalized August 14, 2020</li> <li>Assist with City Streetscape efforts such as rain gardens, storm water quality, surface water infiltration</li> <li>Assist with Land Use and Public Spaces efforts such as trees, street closures, pest management and storm water - cooperative with Complete Streets Commission and Parks and Recreation Commission</li> </ul>
<p><b>Solid Waste Diversion</b></p>	<p>Solid Waste Disposal Contract- Recycling and Composting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subcommittee- Don Weiden, Laura Teksler and Lei Yuan</li> </ul>	<p>Monthly</p>	<p>Recycling and Composting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Amended and Restated Collection Service Agreement between the City of Los Altos and MTWS was executed on April 23, 2020</li> <li>EC to assist staff and Mission Trail Waste System with education and implementation, set goals, measures and report for both Commercial and Residential</li> <li>Subcommittee to work on strategies for waste reduction</li> </ul>
	<p>Reduction- Investigate initiatives on limiting Single-Use Plastics and CA SB 1383 compliance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subcommittee- Don Weiden, Laura Teksler and Bruno Delagneau</li> </ul>	<p>Fall 2021</p>	<p>Recycling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft ordinance presented at EC meetings of Sept. 14, 2020, and Oct. 12, 2020</li> <li>Staff presented Food Service Ware ordinances (option 1 and 2) to Council on Nov. 10, 2020</li> <li>Council decided to put ordinance adoption on hold due to COVID-19</li> <li>Assist with preparation of ordinance Limiting Plastic Use (upon Council request)</li> <li>Assist staff with SB 1383 compliance ordinance to divert food waste from landfills</li> <li>Advance residential composting programs</li> </ul>
	<p>Reuse- Develop Repair Assistance</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Recycling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop repair assistance- information resource, Repair Café, volunteers, solid waste hauler diversion and more</li> </ul>

Community Outreach & Education	Develop program in collaboration with the Los Altos History Museum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Education Fund held by LACF</li> <li>• Subcommittee- David Klein, Laura Tekler and Lei Yuan</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC coordinates with History Museum for the EnviroThon Challenge</li> <li>• Ed fund balance \$1,636.85 as of Jan. 13, 2021</li> <li>• A Subcommittee was established February 2021</li> <li>• Subcommittee to develop programs that utilize LACF Environmental Education Fund balance</li> </ul>
	Sustainability Lens- assist Council in project evaluations and update environmental webpage on the City web site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EC to assist Council</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City's Public Information's Officer, Sonia Lee and staff will continue to update the City's website</li> <li>• Dashboard updated as of January 2021</li> <li>• EC to work with staff on updates to the environmental webpage on the City web site as needed</li> <li>• Assist Council in project evaluations for Policy Resolutions</li> <li>• Form a subcommittee for the Lehigh Hansen and Stevens Creek Quarry, to monitor developing issues</li> </ul>
	Santa Clara County Healthy Cities Program assistance		Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist with Santa Clara County Healthy Cities Program</li> </ul>
	Continue to support SVCEA community outreach and education		Ongoing	Public outreach and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City's Public Information's Officer and staff will continue to update the community with programs and opportunities offered by SVCEA</li> </ul>
	Assist staff with various outreach and education efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Action Plan</li> <li>• Water Conservation</li> <li>• Storm Water Management</li> <li>• Solid Waste Diversion</li> <li>• Native Landscaping</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Public outreach and education	



Lexington Reservoir

# Valley Water Drought Response Plan

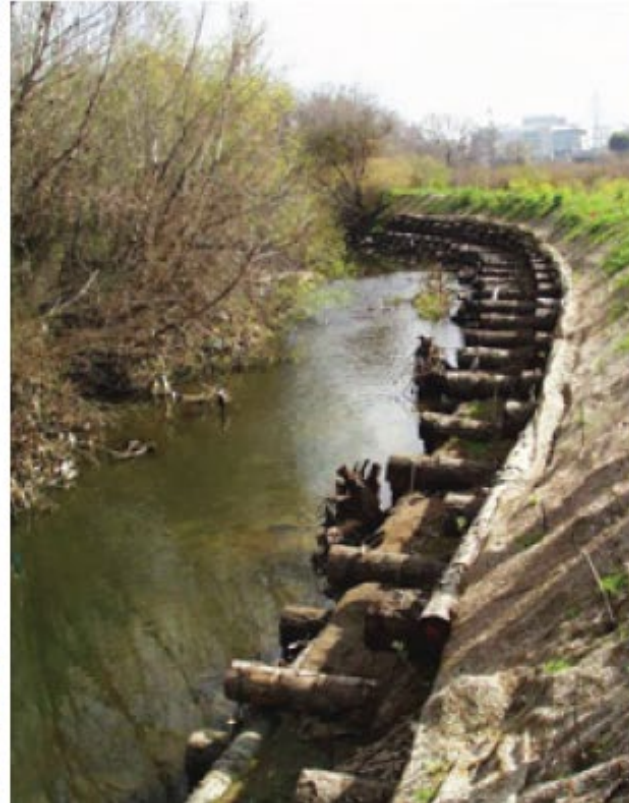
Presented by: Michael Martin  
July 13, 2021

# Valley Water Provides:

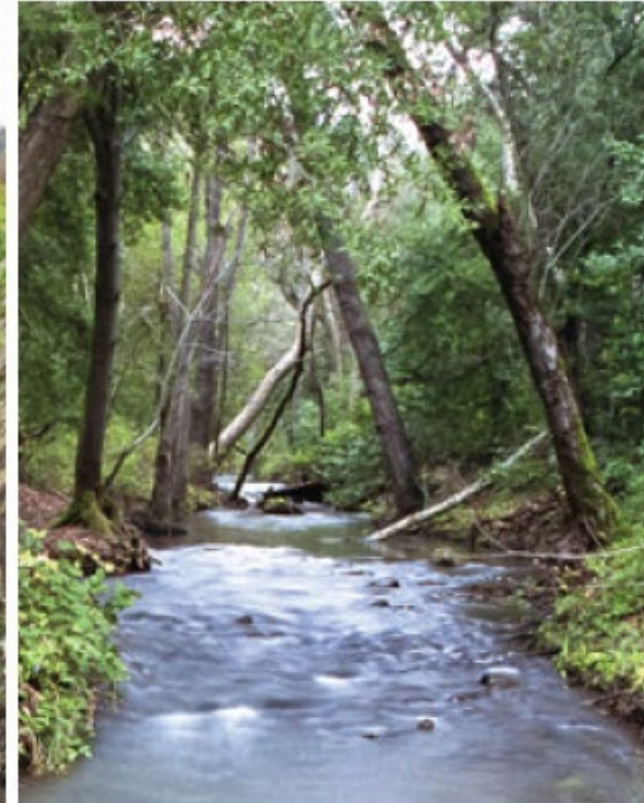
2



Clean, reliable  
**water**



Flood **protection**



Healthy creeks &  
**ecosystems**

# Drought Response Plan Objectives

Allow Valley Water to be more proactive regarding droughts.

Establish a toolbox of actions to prepare for a drought and to take during a drought

Provide consistent drought messaging agreed to by Valley Water, retailers, and municipalities

Determine early indicators of drought

Refine drought response triggers

Update Water Shortage Contingency Plan





# WaterSMART Program

- Administered by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Approved \$200,000 grant to develop a Drought Response Plan
  - Two years
  - Will be used to hire consultant





— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

5

# WaterSMART Program

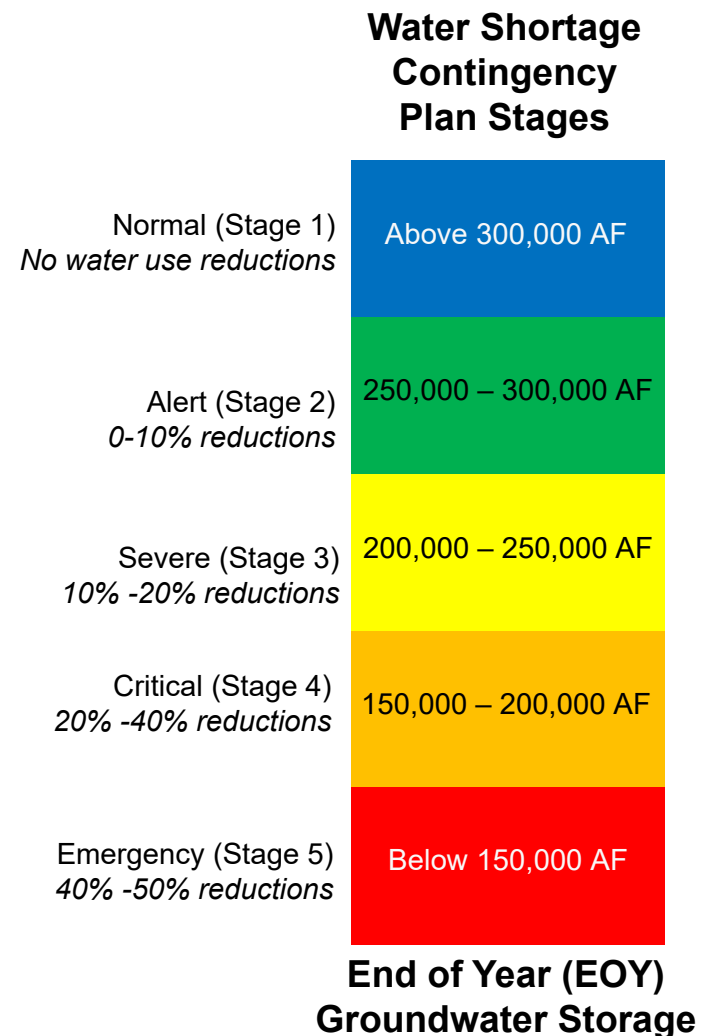
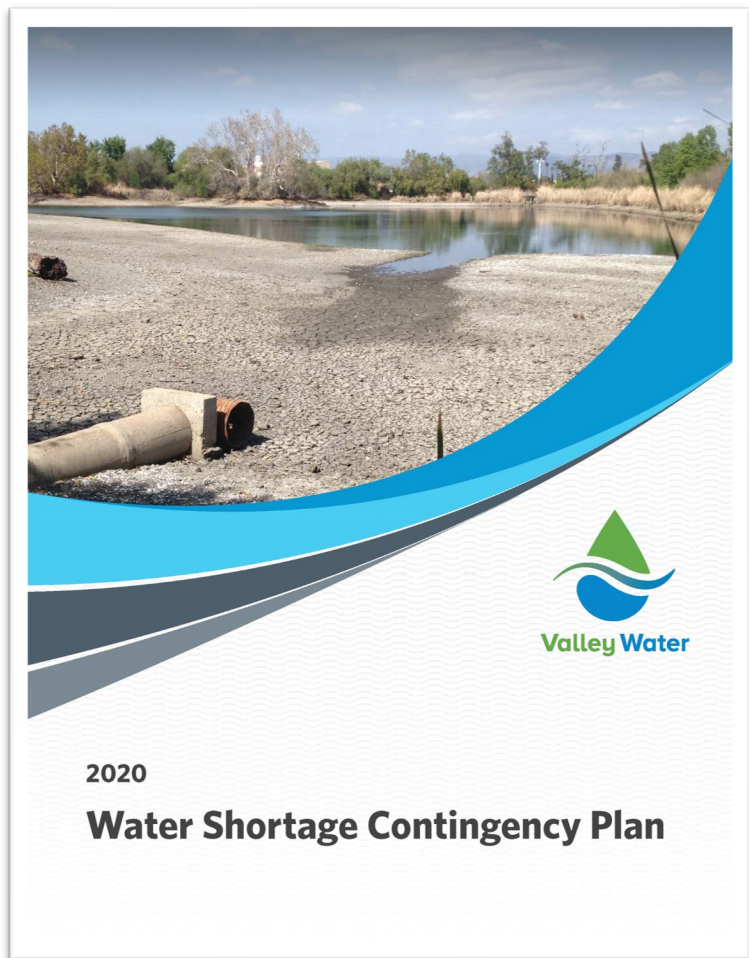
Most planning processes address the four following questions:

- How will we recognize the next drought in the early stages?
- How might hydrologic risks and uncertainties exacerbate/affect drought?
- How will drought affect us?
- How can we protect ourselves from the next drought?

# Required Elements of Drought Response Plan 6

- Drought Monitoring
- Vulnerability Assessment
- Mitigation Actions
- Response Actions
- Operational and Administrative Framework
- Plan Development and Update Process

# Water Shortage Contingency Plan



# Potential Additions

- Review the science related to early prediction of drought conditions
- Examine the effectiveness of actions taken in the previous drought by Valley Water and others.
- Look at how different water supplies are vulnerable to various hydrologic conditions and potential regulations
- Account for geographic differences – south county vs. north county
- Ensure consistent messaging especially for retailers with water sources other than Valley Water (i.e. SFPUC)

# Plan Development Approach

- Consultant will help develop Plan and facilitate Task Force meetings
- Establish working groups as needed.
  - A Retailer Working Group will be created to focus on issues between Valley Water and retailers.
- Major deliverables from the Consultant
  - Benchmark Study
  - Vulnerability Assessment
  - Drought Monitoring and Shortage Response
  - Drought Response Framework

# External Task Force

Made up of Valley Water stakeholders

- Retailers
- Local government
- Agricultural
- Environmental
- Other interested parties

Initial feedback on proposed approach

Provide comments as elements of the Plan are drafted

# Task Force Meeting / Major Milestones

## Task Force Meetings

- Benchmark Study – December 2021
- Vulnerability Assessment – February 2022
- Drought Monitoring and Water Shortage Response – August 2022
- Drought Response Framework – December 2022
- Reclamation Review – February 2023
- Board Approval of Plan – August 2023

# Questions

Objective: Allow Valley Water to be more proactive regarding droughts:

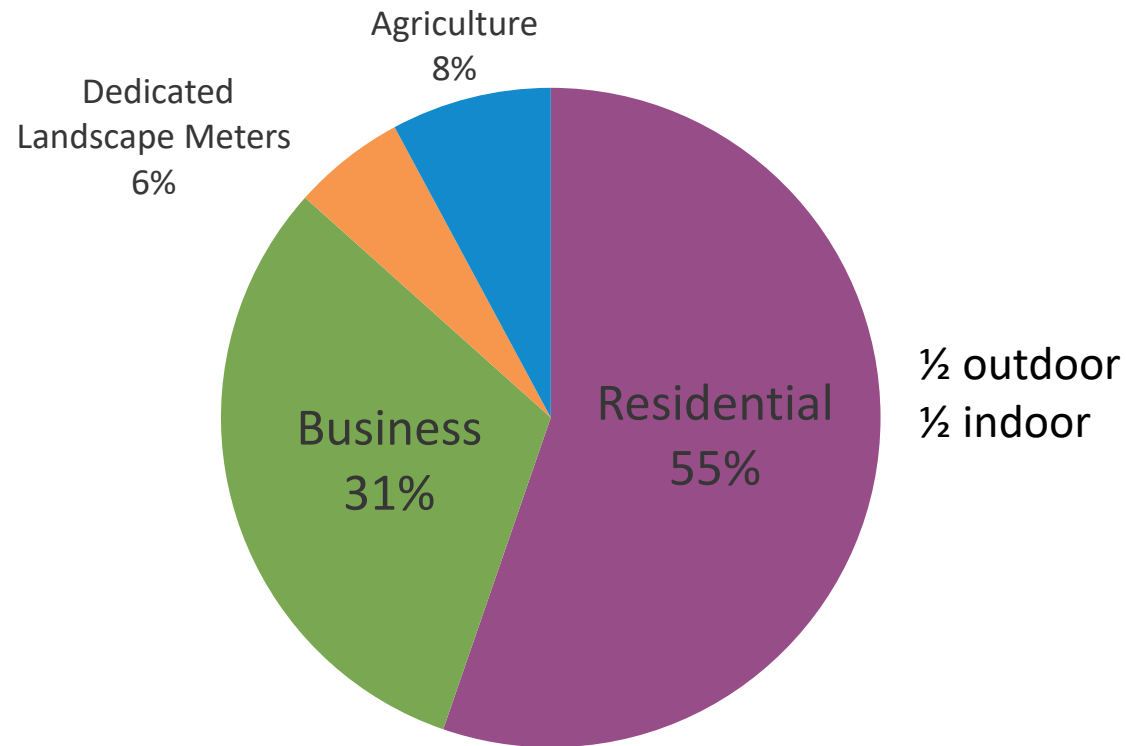
- Benchmark Study – December 2021
- Vulnerability Assessment – February 2022
- Drought Monitoring and Water Shortage Response – August 2022
  - Determine early indicators of drought
  - Refine drought response triggers
  - Establish a toolbox of actions to prepare for a drought and to take during a drought
- Drought Response Framework – December 2022
  - Provide consistent drought messaging agreed to by Valley Water, retailers, and municipalities
  - Update Water Shortage Contingency Plan







# Water Use in Santa Clara County:



Source: Water Research Foundation, Residential End Uses of Water, Version 2, 2016

# Water Supply Master Plan Strategy:



Secure  
existing  
supplies and  
infrastructure



Expand  
conservation  
and reuse



Optimize the  
system

## Projects Approved for Planning

### 1) Secure existing supplies and infrastructure

- Delta Conveyance Project
- Dam Seismic retrofits

### 2) Expand conservation and Reuse

- Potable Reuse
- Conservation and stormwater capture projects

### 3) Optimize the system

- Pacheco Reservoir
- Transfer-Bethany Pipeline

# Water Conservation Goals

